

# 'Convergence of research, depts crucial to farm sector's growth'

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE@Thrissur

AGRICULTURE Minister V S Sunil Kumar on Saturday said convergence of research activities and departments' concerned is crucial to the farm sector's growth. Inaugurating the monthly agro clinic and farm advisory programme of Kerala Agricultural University (KAU) at Mannuthy, Sunil Kumar said the farmer-scientist interface is a well thought out programme to link stakeholders for promotion of agriculture.

"The presence of farmers, extension officers and experts on a common platform enhances productivity and increases farmers income," he said at the function where over a hundred farmers presented their problems and received expert advice in the agro clinic programme implemented by KAU's Communication Centre.

The tremendous response from the farming community coupled with the earnest efforts of KAU scientists and department officers have generated positive signals. Direct interaction between farmers and scientists complements the government's initiative in this

regard. This is a flagship programme which soon can become a model for the rest of the country, he said.

Lauding the proponents of the programme, Sunil Kumar said scheduling regular visits of such expert panels to major agricultural zones will be a welcome development.

K. Rajan MLA in his presidential address highlighted the need for more such popular programmes to ensure the KAU remained accessible to farmers. "The government wants to support farming and the agricultural varsity is also bound to support all initiatives. The belief that the KAU is supportive and responsive will do a world of good to the farming

community," he said.

Agricultural Production Commissioner and Acting Vice-Chancellor Tikka Ram Meena in his keynote address said strengthening the bond between farmers and farm scientists is the need of the hour and the interface is a welcome step. "Even while floating innovative ideas for doubling the farmers' income through enhanced productivity, we have to ensure the research is result-oriented. The farmers should have confidence in research activities and researchers," he said.



**The ultimate aim of academic research and extension activities is to partner farmers for enhanced production.**

Tikka Ram Meena,  
Agricultural  
Production  
Commissioner